



#### Special points of interest:

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**Boating Equipment**

**What to do in a thunderstorm...**

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July 2009

Issue 8

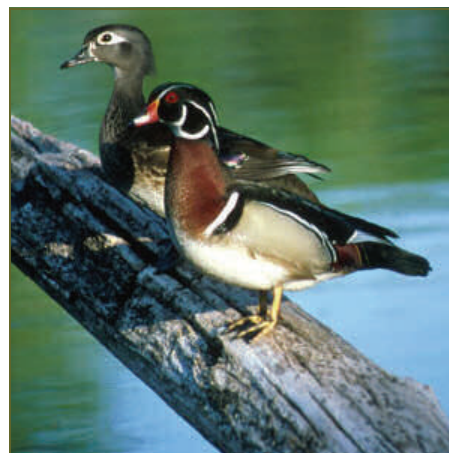
# Lake Notes

## W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir

### Work for waterfowl under way

by Jule Hubbard (Wilkes Journal Patriot)

As work on a new state visitor's center and rest area nears completion on U.S. 421 just east of the Wilkesboros, major new accommodations for feathered travelers are well under way a few miles to the west at the Marley's Ford access on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir. Grading for creating a four-acre water impoundment to provide food and rest for migrating waterfowl should be complete in about a week, said Terry Ramsey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers director of operations for the reservoir. The shallow impoundment, only 1 to 2 feet deep, is being established in a corps-owned field on the south side of the Yadkin River where the river enters the reservoir. "We're moving earth around and building a berm about 6 feet tall with an overflow pipe," said Ramsey. After grading is completed, he said, high energy crops like corn, milo and millet will be planted and allowed to become well established in the impoundment. Ramsey said that starting in October and continuing through most of the winter, a portable pump will be used to keep it filled with water from the reservoir. Water will be allowed to drain out of the impoundment starting in late winter. Then, the process of planting high energy crops in the spring and summer, filling the impoundment with reservoir water starting in the fall and letting it drain in late winter will become an annual cycle. "We are in a huge flyway for migrating waterfowl. The goal is to provide a feeding and resting area for them as they migrate" back and forth between where they nest in the Midwest and Canada in the summer and various parts of the South where they spend the winter, said Ramsey. He said the overall objective is to help increase the many species of waterfowl survive as they migrate. Although some Canadian geese over-winter in Wilkes, most ducks and waterfowl are passing through when seen here. Although improving hunting opportunities isn't a primary objective, Ramsey added, officials are considering opening the impoundment area for hunting on a limited basis. He said this could include making it accessible for disabled military veterans and other disabled people. Ramsey said the project is the latest of many partnerships at the reservoir, with the nonprofit Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake playing a primary role. A consultant employed by the Friends of W. Kerr Scott Lake obtained state grants totaling \$275,000 to fund the work, with the money channeled through Wilkes County government. He said the work also includes altering the road system in the Marley's Ford area. A paved road on corps property to Marley's Ford is temporarily closed. Ramsey said an access site on the uppermost waters of the lake for canoes and other small boats is also temporarily closed due to the work, but will be reopened at the same site upon completion of the impoundment.



A finding of no significant (environmental) impact from the project was recently announced by officials with the Wilmington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW

The Environmental Assessment for the Shoreline Management Plan Update is on the W. Kerr Scott Lake webpage at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wkscott/index.htm>.  
The comment period ended on July 11, however the assessment may still be reviewed.

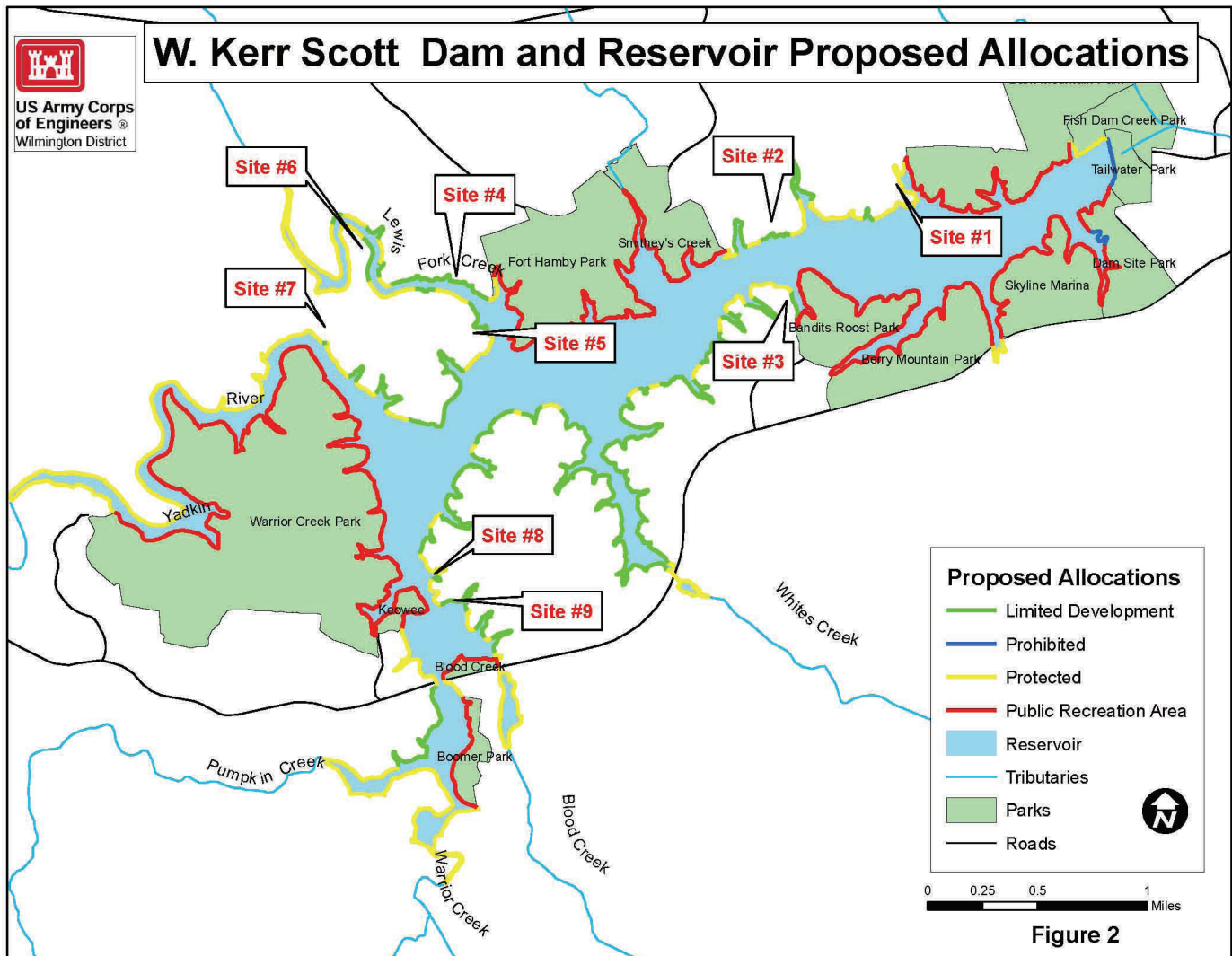


Figure 2 is a map depicting proposed allocation changes.



# IMPROVED WALKWAY REQUIREMENTS

## Improved Walkways and Steps

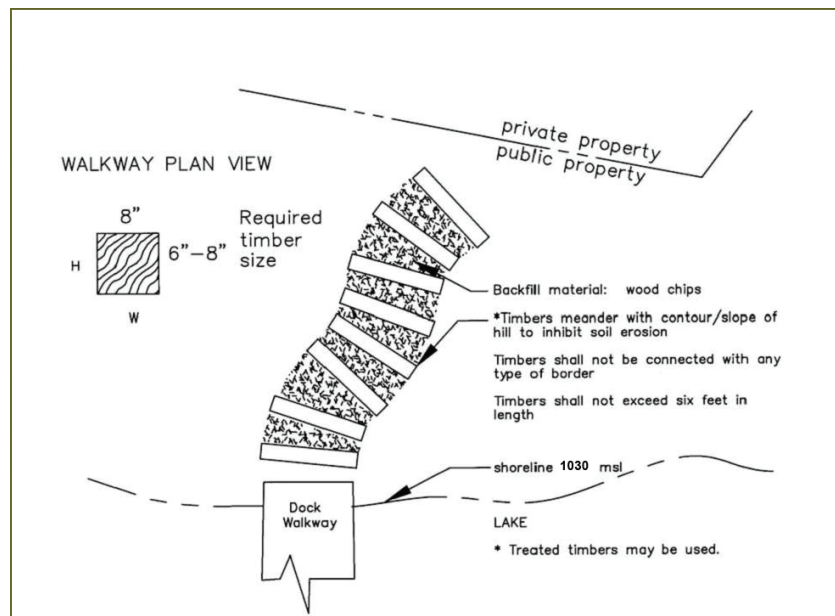
All improved walkways and steps providing access across government or easement lands require a Shoreline Use License or consent. The use of materials, natural or man-made, for the purpose of delineating a pathway or improving access is defined as an improved walkway. Unless a license is reissued to another party, all walkway and step improvements will be removed from public property at the expense of the Licensee upon termination of the Shoreline Use License. Walkways and steps authorized on public property are subject to the conditions listed below:

(1) The walkway is not to exceed five feet in width. However, if the walkway is associated with a community floating facility the walkway may be wider as approved by the Operations Manager. Walkway and step licenses are available for the purpose of providing a safe access to the Reservoir waters and to docks. Walkway facilities are not to include sitting decks or landings.

(2) Although some concrete and asphalt walkways have been grandfathered, this practice is no longer allowed. Exceptions may be granted to individuals with a walking disability and requiring a substantial walkway to accommodate a wheelchair. Persons with disabilities requesting this exemption must live in the permittee's residence and furnish the Operations Manager a "Certificate of Disability" or letter from a physician. Grandfathered concrete walkways can be re-assigned to a new landowner, but must be replaced with an approved non-concrete design when it deteriorates to point of requiring replacement. If stepping-stones are utilized, they must not exceed six square feet in size to facilitate easy removal upon termination of the permit.

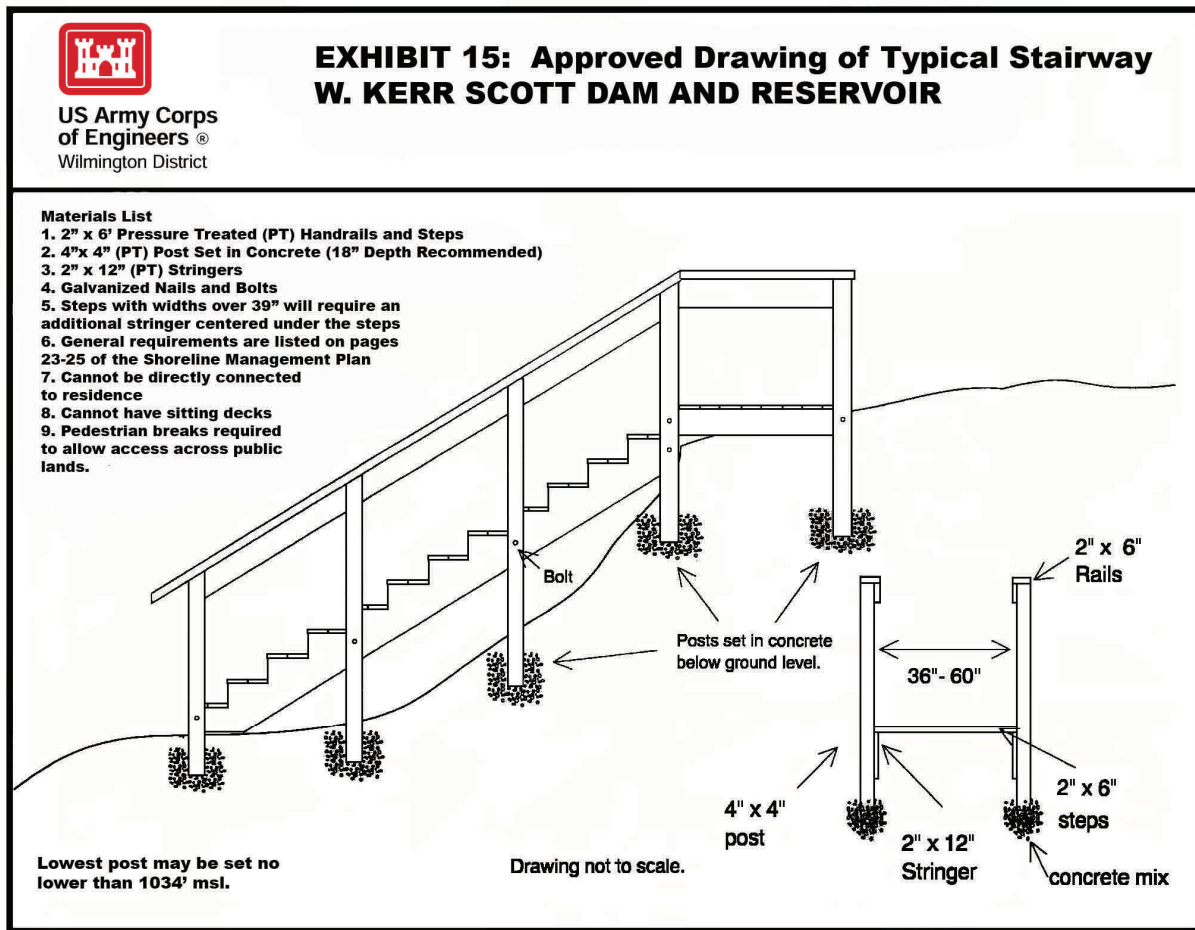
(3) Steps and walkways must follow a route that takes topography into account. (Prior approval by the Operations Manager is required to minimize the adverse impact on public property and other permits/licenses.)

(4) Walkways and steps cannot be physically attached to any private dwelling. There must be at least a three-foot separation between the government boundary and the dwelling. Structures extending across the boundary line and attached to private dwellings are prohibited. The Operations Manager may also designate several breaks in handrails and walks on sections of government owned lands to facilitate lateral public pedestrian access.





# IMPROVED WALKWAY REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)



If you wish to apply for an improved walkway license; using the requirements in Exhibit 15 shown above; create a plan of your proposed walkway and submit to the Operations Manager at W. Kerr Scott Lake. Your plan should include a drawing of the stairs or walkway; all materials and equipment to be used along with your contact information. Upon approval, a \$50 license fee must be paid and then work may begin.

(5) Detailed plans for construction of steps or walkway will be required (See Exhibit 15). All carpentry and construction must meet all state and local codes. All lumber must be commercially pressure treated and approved for outdoor ground contact use.

(6) Natural unimproved pathways not causing any detriment to the environment do not require licensing. Natural unimproved pathways causing erosion or detrimental effects on the environment will be placed under a footpath permit for corrective action and monitoring.

(7) Walkways cannot be used for vehicular traffic, including off-road vehicles, all terrain vehicles, motorbikes, and other similar motorized equipment. However, golf carts and small slow-moving utility tractors will be allowed on improved walkways for the purpose of transporting repair and/or construction supplies, equipment, and persons with disabilities to the shoreline with written permission from the Operations Manager. Unauthorized vehicular traffic on a walkway may result in the termination of the license.

(8) The licensee cannot restrict the general public's use of any walkway or steps located on public property.

# NO WAKE VIOLATIONS INCREASE



Rangers have seen a significant increase in no wake violations this season. Part of the problem is possibly due to the movement of buoys during recent floods. Contractors are working to replace old buoys and put them back in correct locations. As a general rule; boats should use no wake around launch ramps, swimbeaches and under the bridge.

So what is a “no wake zone?” The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission defines “No Wake Zones” as areas within which vessels are required to travel at idling speed – slow speed that creates no appreciable wake. Mitigation of hazards to water safety is the sole criterion for establishment of No Wake Zones in North Carolina.

Enforcement of No Wake Zones is limited to those areas that have been established by federal and state rulemaking or legislation and that are properly marked. No Wake Zones must display regulatory signs or buoys that conform to the standards of the U.S. Aids to Navigation (USATONS).

Any county or municipality may, after public notice and hearing, make formal application to the WRC for a No Wake Zone rule on waters within its territorial jurisdiction. While the Wildlife Resources Commission does not purchase or maintain No Wake markers, we are available to provide technical assistance about marker purchase and placement after the No Wake rule is adopted.

## VANDALISM AND THEFT ON THE RISE

Numerous permittees, marina slip owners and even rangers have fallen victim to theft and vandalism these last few months. Mostly gas is being stolen from boats and boat docks. There have been boat motors stolen on as many as five boats in the last three months. Remember, docks are private property if you fall victim call the Wilkes County Sheriff's Department immediately and then call our office at 921-3390 and ask for the shoreline ranger to report the crime. Rangers have stepped up boat patrol, and continue to patrol the boat ramp parking lots along with the Sheriff's Department. Things you can do to help:

1. Do not leave valuables on your dock or boat (ie: GPS units, depth finders, underwater cameras, large amounts of gasoline, etc.)
2. Keep an eye on your neighbor's dock as well as your own. If you see suspicious behavior, get as much detailed information as possible (even boat registration numbers if possible) and report it. Do not put yourself or your family in danger by confrontation with a person committing a crime!
3. Reminder: Permitted boat docks are for the permittee's boats and equipment only.

## ABANDONMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

327.15 (a) Personal property of any kind shall not be abandoned, stored or left unattended upon lands or waters. After a period of 24 hours, or at any time after a posted closure hour in a public use area or for the purpose of providing public safety or resource protection, unattended personal property shall be presumed to be abandoned and may be impounded and stored at a storage point designated by the District Commander, who may assess a reasonable impoundment fee. Such fee shall be paid before the impounded property is returned to its owner.

(b) Personal property placed on Federal lands or waters adjacent to a private residence, facility and/or developments of any private nature for more than 24 hours without permission of the District Commander shall be presumed to have been abandoned and, unless proven otherwise, such presumption will be sufficient to impound the property and/or issue a citation.

# W. KERR SCOTT—PART OF THE NC BIRDING TRAIL

## NC Birding Trail - Frequently Asked Questions

1722 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1722, (919) 604-5183

[info@ncbirdingtrail.org](mailto:info@ncbirdingtrail.org), [www.ncbirdingtrail.org](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org)

1. **What is the NC Birding Trail?** The NC Birding Trail is a partnership project to establish a driving trail linking great birding sites across the state. Six agencies and organizations are involved in the Birding Trail: NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC State Parks, Audubon NC, US Fish & Wildlife Service, NC Sea Grant, and NC Cooperative Extension. The Trail was implemented in three regional components: the coastal plain, piedmont, and mountains. I-95 is the border between the coastal plain and piedmont regions; I-77 is the border between the piedmont and mountain regions. The coastal plain portion of the Trail was completed in 2007 (102 sites). The piedmont portion of the Trail was completed in 2008 (103 sites), and the mountain region was completed in 2009 (105 sites). To learn more about the NC Birding Trail, visit our Web site: [www.ncbirdingtrail.org](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org).



### 2. How can I help to promote the NC Birding Trail?

- We work hard to keep our Website ([www.ncbirdingtrail.org](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org)) accurate and current, so visit often and pass the address along to others! From our homepage, you can print your own copies of this document to distribute to individuals and organizations.
- Birder calling cards are also available for download from our homepage – print up a few and drop them off at businesses you visit during your travels on the NC Birding Trail. This will help local communities recognize the economic impact of visiting birders.
- Promote the NC Birding Trail sites in your area to your travel and tourism offices and make sure they're aware of the local birding hotspots and the benefits of birding trails!

3. **What are the benefits of the NC Birding Trail?** First of all, birding is big business! The 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-associated Recreation reported that 47.8 million US residents participated in birding around their home or on trips. Over 71 million Americans spent nearly \$45 billion in retail sales on observing, feeding, or watching wildlife in the US in 2006. We can attract more nature-based tourists to North Carolina. Their local tourism expenditures (food, lodging, transportation, etc.) will provide a boost to local economies and show our residents that there is a value to be placed on protecting our natural resources. The NC Birding Trail will also provide a great educational opportunity for young and old, alike, and may attract more people to visit the natural places that make North Carolina such a beautiful state in which to live and play. More than 35 states across the US have their own birding or wildlife trails.

4. **How can I purchase an NC Birding Trail guide?** A full-color, spiral bound trail guide will accompany each region of the Trail. Our website ([www.ncbirdingtrail.org](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org)) reflects the current status of the trail guide series. The completed guides are available at retail pricing at major bookstores, and through the NC Wildlife Resources Commission's [Wild Store](#) (1-866-945-3746). Resale orders must be placed through [UNC Press](#) (1-800-848-6224).



### 5. Will sites be allowed to sell the NC Birding Trail guides for profit?

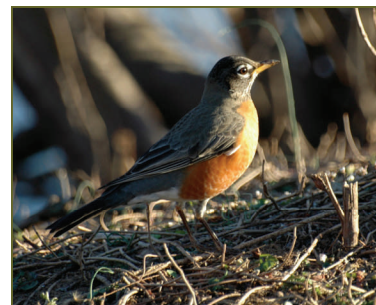
Yes. We expect that some sites, especially those with staffed visitor centers, will be very interested in selling the guides. To order for resale, contact [UNC Press](#) (1-800-848-6224).

### 6. When can sites expect visitors who are traveling the NC Birding Trail?

Many of the 310 NCBT sites across the state are already enjoying visits by birders who have learned of the NCBT and word-of-mouth continues to spread through local, regional, and national media. On-line site descriptions for each regional component of the Trail are available for download from our Web site

([www.ncbirdingtrail.org](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org), under the Trails menu). Interest in the NC Birding Trail should continue to increase over time, with the help of our trail guide series and promotion by dedicated volunteers and supporters.

# W. KERR SCOTT—PART OF THE NC BIRDING TRAIL (CONT'D)



**7. What kind of questions can site managers expect from visiting birders?** Visiting birders will want to know where they can go to look for birds on the property, and what bird species they might find. If you don't have particular recommendations to give, the best information you can provide is the information contained in the site description. We recommend that you print a copy of the on-line site description for your site. To do this, go to our Web site: [www.ncbirdingtrail.org](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org), and navigate to the Trails menu to find the region of interest (coast, piedmont, or mountains). Downloadable (PDF format) group maps and site information are available from there. You can print just your site description, or print a copy of all the site descriptions in the group. Keep this handy when people call with questions. The very same information is also available in the printed Trail Guide.

**8. How can people find out what birds they might see or hear at a particular site?** Each site description gives a short listing of some species of interest that may be found at that site. We are also developing an on-line searchable database that we hope to have functional in 2009. When finished, birders will be able to go to our Web site and search the database by either site or by bird species. We will make an announcement when the database is available.

**9. What are some other birding resources I can suggest to birders who visit my site?** The introductory information in each Trail Guide lists books and Web sites that are good resources for visiting birders in that region of the state (e.g., local birding clubs and organizations). This information is also found in the on-line documentation, under [www.ncbirdingtrail.org](http://www.ncbirdingtrail.org), Trails.

**10. Will there ever be a chance for new sites to be added to the Trail?** After the Birding Trail is implemented in all three regions of the state, we may consider issuing a call for additional site nominations, beginning with the coastal region and working westward. If and when this happens, we will widely announce the process. Since our trail guide series will have already been published, any new sites that might be added to the trail would be highlighted on our Website, but would not be included in a trail guide until there is a reprint.

**11. Does the NC Birding Trail have any support available to assist with site improvements?** The NC Birding Trail does not have the financial resources to provide money or staff time for site improvements (e.g., boardwalk installations, interpretive signs, photo blinds, etc). We can help to direct you to on-line information sources if you're looking for ideas or specific guidelines.

**12. Are signs be available for each site?** The NCBT does not have funding to supply signs to sites along the Trail. Instead, recognizing the need and interest by sites to have Trail designation, we have provided site managers with sign specifications that can be taken to a local vendor or sign shop. Estimates for individual sign costs should be under \$50/sign (we encourage you to seek multiple estimates). Please contact us for the sign specifications.



# MEET OUR STAFF.....



R.G. Absher has been the Assistant Operations Manager at W. Kerr Scott Lake since 1981. Absher began his career with the Corps of Engineers at Hartwell Reservoir as an Interpretive Ranger prior to coming to W. Kerr Scott. He serves as Chief Ranger overseeing the work done in the four major program areas of Shoreline Management, Recreation, Natural Resources and Interpretation and as supervisor to the Ranger Staff.

Absher is an avid historian recently published his first book entitled, "Ghosts of the Yadkin River Valley," available through History Press in Charleston, SC. Visitors may recall seeing Absher dressed as a Revolutionary War soldier during the numerous interpretive programs he performs on the Overmountain National Historic Trail.

2009	Average High	Average Low	Rainfall
January	47	24	3.46
February	53	27	1.16
March	58	36	5.66
April	69	43	3.66
May	75	56	12.13
June	85	63	4.28
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			



Flooding May 2009



# THUNDERSTORM SAFETY

## Before lightning strikes—

Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of light, or increasing wind. Listen for the sound of thunder.

If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to the storm to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately.

Listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for the latest weather forecasts.



## When a storm approaches—

Find shelter in a building or car.

Keep car windows closed and avoid convertibles.

Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances. Avoid using the telephone or any electrical appliances. (Leaving electric lights on, however, does not increase the chances of your home being struck by lightning.)

Avoid taking a bath or shower, or running water for any other purpose.

Turn off the air conditioner. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressor, resulting in a costly repair job!

Draw blinds and shades over windows. If windows break due to objects blown by the wind, the shades will prevent glass from shattering into your home.

## If caught outside—

If you are in the woods, take shelter under the shorter trees.

If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately!



## Protecting yourself outside

Go to a low-lying, open place away from trees, poles, or metal objects. Make sure the place you

pick is not subject to flooding.

Be a very small target! Squat low to the ground. Place your hands on your knees with your head

between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible.

Do not lie flat on the ground— this will make you a larger target!

# SAFETY MATTERS.....TICKS

North Carolina often has the highest number of reported Rocky Mountain spotted fever cases in the country," State Health Director Leah Devlin said.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever is a disease caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii* (rick-ETT-see-uh rick-ETT-see-eye) and is carried by ticks. If bitten by an infected tick, a person will usually start having fever, severe headaches and nausea within about a week or two. A few days after the illness begins, they will often develop a red-spotted rash, usually starting on their arms or ankles. They also may have pain in their joints, stomach pain, and diarrhea. Sometimes people with this illness become very sick and have to go to the hospital. According to Dr. Devlin, while it is possible for a person to be bitten by a tick and not know it, those who do know should be sure to mark the date they found and removed the tick. RMSF is treatable with antibiotics, but complications can still occur. "This information could be a tremendous help to doctors should you become ill," she said. "It is also helpful if the tick can be saved so its species can be identified. People who become ill should promptly consult their doctor, so treatment is started early."



People can protect themselves from Rocky Mountain spotted fever by limiting their exposure to ticks:




























- Wear light-colored clothing, which allows you to see ticks that are crawling on your clothing.
- Tuck your pants legs into your socks so that ticks cannot crawl up the inside of your pants legs.
- Apply repellents to discourage tick attachment. Always follow package directions. Repellents containing permethrin can be sprayed on boots and clothing, and will last for several days. Repellents containing DEET can be applied to the skin, but will last only a few hours before reapplication is necessary. Use DEET with caution on children because using doses larger than recommended may cause adverse reactions.
- Conduct a body check upon return from potentially tick-infested areas by searching your entire body for ticks. Use a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body. Remove any tick you find on your body.
- Check children for ticks, especially in their hair, when returning from potentially tick-infested areas. Ticks may also be carried into the household on clothing and on pets, so both should be examined carefully to exclude ticks.

Even when a tick is infected, several hours of attachment are required (at least 4 to 6) before it may transmit the infectious agent that causes RMSF. If a tick bites you, remove the tick immediately to reduce the chance of infection. To remove a tick:

- Use fine-tipped tweezers, and protect your fingers with a tissue, paper towel, or latex gloves. Do not remove ticks with your bare hands.
- Using the tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the skin surface as possible and pull upward with steady, even pressure. Do not twist or jerk the tick; this may cause the mouthparts to break off and remain in the skin.
- Wash the bite area thoroughly with soap and water. Also wash your hands.
- Note date of removal. If you develop symptoms, this could be important information to share with your doctor.
- Tape the tick to a white card, and write the date on the card, so if you become sick later the species of tick can be identified.

For more information about RMSF and other tick borne illness, see the N.C. Division of Public Health web site at [www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/tick](http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/tick). For more information on ticks, visit the Public Health Pest Management web site at [www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/phpm/index.html](http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/phpm/index.html).

# REQUIRED BOATING EQUIPMENT

Required Equipment	PWC	Boat Less than 16'	Boat 16' to Less Than 26'
<b>Boating Education Certification Card on Board</b> (Applicable for PWCs if operator is 14 or 15 years old)			
<b>Validation Decal Displayed</b>			
<b>PFDs: Type I, II, or III</b> (one per person)			
Those on PWCs must wear a personal flotation device at all times. inflatable PFDs are not allowed on PWCs. Those under age 13 must wear a personal flotation device when underway on a vessel.			
<b>PFD: Type IV</b>	n/a	n/a	
<b>Type B-1 Fire Extinguisher</b>			
<b>Backfire Flame Arrestor</b>		Required on inboard and stern drives only.	Required on inboard and stern drives only.
<b>Ventilation System</b>			
<b>Muffler</b>			
<b>Horn, Whistle, or Bell</b>			
<b>Daytime Visual Distress Signals</b>	n/a	n/a	Required only when boating on federally-controlled waters.
<b>Nighttime Visual Distress Signals</b>	n/a		
Required only when boating on federally-controlled waters between sunset and sunrise.			
<b>Navigation Lights</b>	n/a		



## CAMPGROUND IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Fort Hamby Campground was renovated in 2005. There are 32 Campsites with electricity and water and Robbers Den Group Area which has a total of 17 tent sites, a basketball court, 2 picnic shelters, mini-amphitheater and a vault toilet. Near campsite 19 is the trailhead to Bushwhacker Falls Trail, a meandering 1/2 mile trail leading to a beautiful natural waterfall.

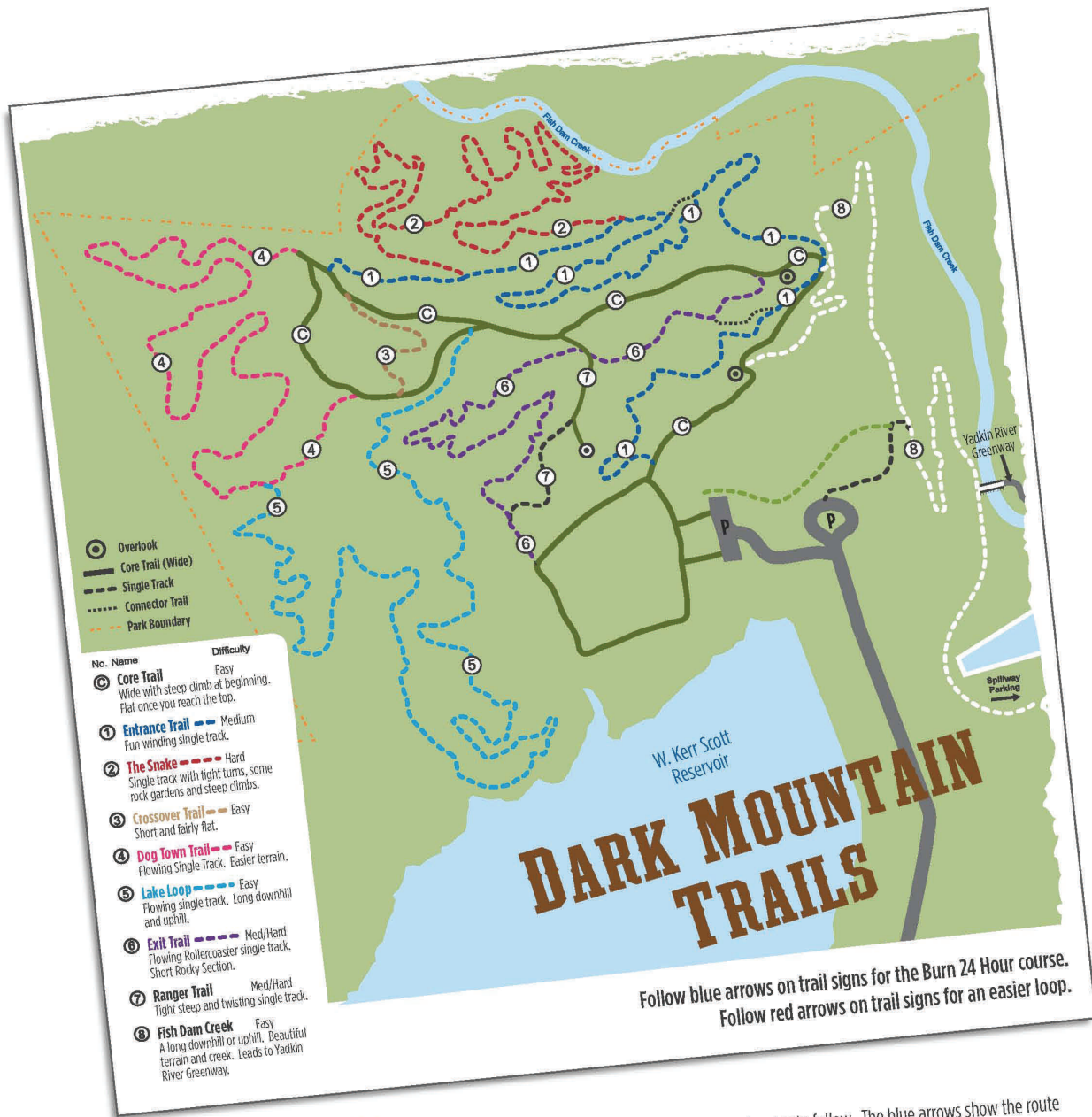


## Fort Hamby Park





# TRAIL IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## Dark Mountain Trails

Steep, tight and fast with good flow and a lot of variety. There are 2 color coded routes to follow. The blue arrows show the route of the Burn 24 Hour Mtn. Bike race and offer the greatest challenge (7.5 miles). The red arrows offer an easier and shorter trail.

### General Regulations

Rules and regulations governing the use of all land and water on W. Kerr Scott Reservoir are contained in Title 36 - Code of Federal Regulations, copies of which are posted in recreation areas and can be obtained at the Visitor Assistance Center near the dam. These regulations are enforced by the US Army Corps of Engineers Park Rangers. Regulations pertinent to the use of the trails are as follows:

- Park only in designated parking areas
- Use only designated trails
- Bike helmets are highly recommended
- Camping only allowed in designated park campgrounds
- Motorized vehicles prohibited on trails
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited
- Fires are prohibited except in designated areas
- Littering is prohibited
- Hunting is prohibited
- Defacement, damage or alteration of public property is prohibited



# WILDFLOWERS AT THE LAKE

## Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)



Jewelweed is also known as Spotted Touch-me-not and Jewel Weed.

**Plant Type:** This is a herbaceous plant, it is an annual which can reach 60 inches in height. The stem is somewhat translucent.

**Leaves:** The leaves are alternate. Leaves can reach 8.8cm in length (3.5inches). Each leaf is toothed and thin and they underside look like jewels when held under water.

**Flowers:** The flowers are irregular in shape and are up to 2.5cm long (1 inches). They are orange and yellow with darker splotches. Blooms first appear in early summer and continue into late summer. The flowers have a wet, delicate appearance. The sack like back of the flower is actually the larger of three sepals which has a turned down spur to 9mm (0.4")long.

**Fruit:** A capsule pops open at maturity dispersing the seeds.

**Habitat:** Low or moist openings in woods and bottom lands.

**Range:** From the Rocky Mountains east and in the pacific northwest.

# EYE ON THE ENVIRONMENT



## BLACK CRAPPIE ~ *Apomixes nigromaculatus*

**Other Common Names:** speckled perch, calico bass, papermouth

**Identification:** With a compressed body, small head and arched back, the black crappie is silvery-green to yellowish, with large dorsal and anal fins of almost identical shape and size. It has a large mouth with an upper jaw extending under the eye. It has many dark spots on its sides and fins, which become more mottled toward the back. To differentiate between a black crappie and a white crappie, count the dorsal spines. The black crappie has seven to eight dorsal spines, while the white crappie has only five to six.

**Habitats and Habits:** Black crappie are thought to be native to North Carolina and have been widely stocked across the state. They thrive in clear ponds, natural lakes and reservoirs with moderate vegetation. Black crappie are also common in large, slow-moving rivers in the Coastal Plain but will avoid areas that are turbid or murky. Young black crappie prey on insects, plankton and larval fishes. Adult black crappie eat mainly fish, but they will also eat aquatic organisms and terrestrial insects.

**Fishing Techniques:** Effective bait and lures are small jigs, minnows, silver spoons, flies and spinners fished along shorelines, around submerged brush piles and near fallen trees. Fishing vertically is effective when black crappie are deep enough to tolerate a boat directly overhead. Drifting or trolling with jigs works well when crappie are roaming open waters. To attract black crappie, anglers will often sink fish hides or "hurdles" consisting of Christmas trees and other woody debris.

# KEEPING A NATURE JOURNAL

Keeping a Nature Journal

From the Sierra Club

by Bonnie Johanna Gisel, Ph.D.

## What Is A Nature Journal?

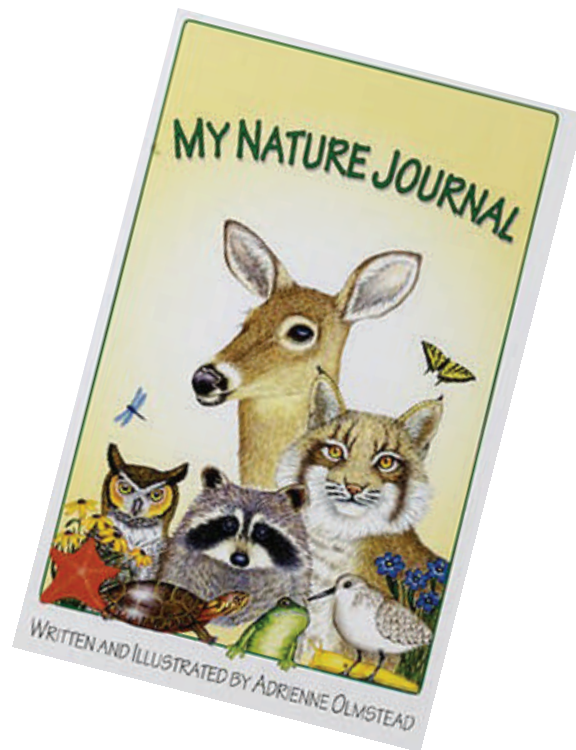
A Nature Journal is a place to grow your thoughts, feelings, ideas, activities, observations, and relationship with the natural world. And, it is an opportunity to interpret your inner thoughts out into the natural world and a space where the natural world can flow into you and leave a permanent mark.

## Observing Nature

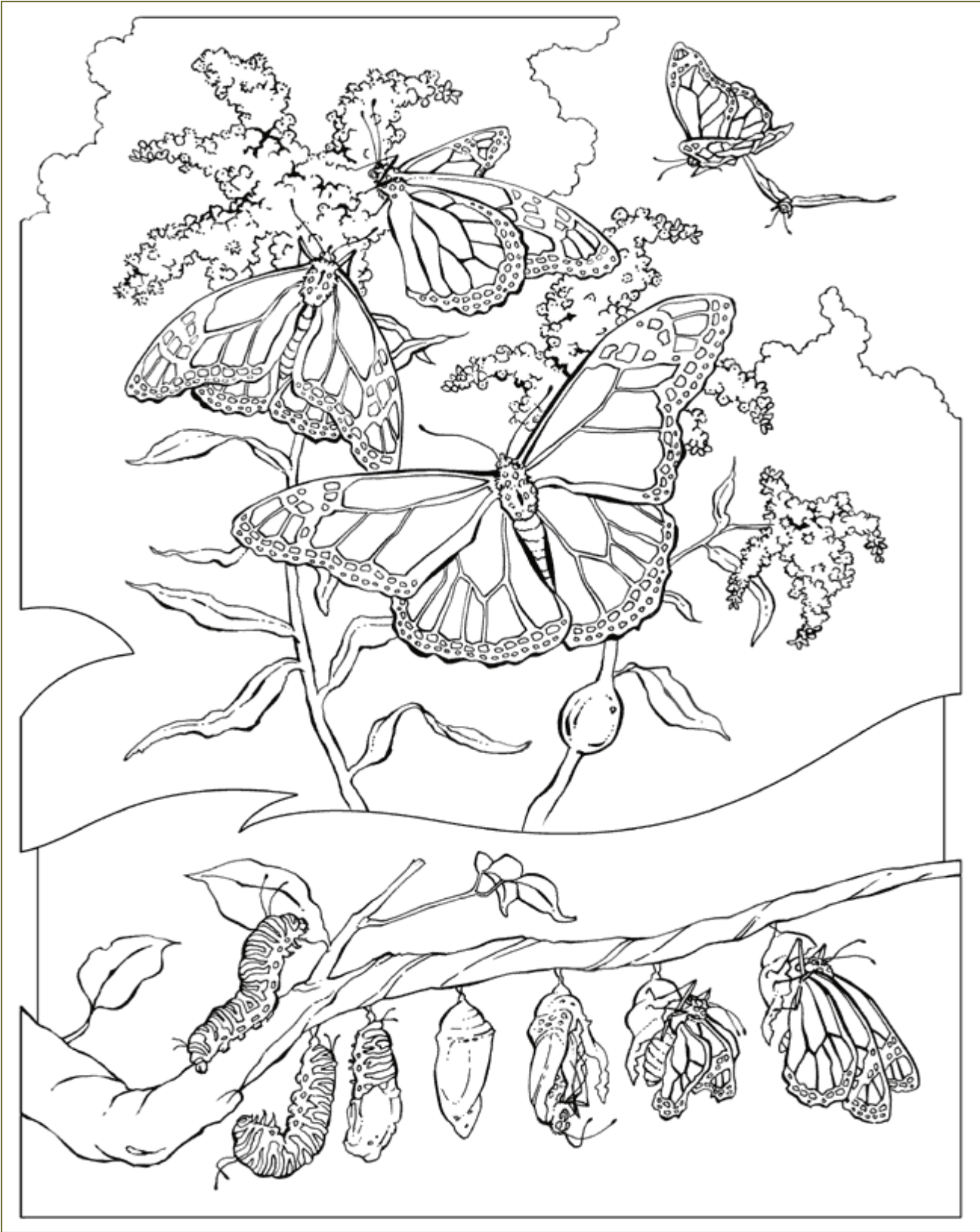
1. Nature is the source of inspiration for a Nature Journal. Observing nature is more important than writing.
2. Preconceived ideas about the natural world are a hindrance to your ability to create a union between what you see and what you write. Clear your mind and be open to discovery. Artist Asher Durand wrote: "Art is unworthy and vicious when at variance with Truth," the truth found in Nature. The same may be applied to writing about Nature and about your relationship with wilderness. According to Durand, "do not be poisoned by conventionalism, the substitution of falsehood for truth." Look closely at nature, observe with a keen eye, record what you see in your own inimitable way - make it personal, permit it to resonate against your soul.
3. Build upon experience, remembering a certain order of events, relating one to another. Look closely at nature and then look again and recall patterns, motions; consider the weather, sky, sounds, temperature, reflect upon Nature's temperament.
4. Select, perhaps, one place that you revisit and record the changes that occur there season after season.
5. Consider carrying a field guide to wildflowers, trees, birds, mammals or insects to assist in identification.

## How To Begin Writing A Nature Journal

1. Listen to Nature's voice, literally and figuratively, and provide descriptive words and details for mountains, rivers, streams, flowers, trees, creatures, and the way the natural world interacts and is engaged in daily activity. Consider how you are part of that ecosystem and that diversity. Look at Nature as if through a lens. Study sounds, movements, atmosphere.
2. Incorporate your feelings, mood, observations, and those you might attribute to wildflowers, meadows, rivers, mountains, and streams. Provide Nature with a voice.
3. Begin writing. Write often. Do not be too critical or edit your writing to the detriment of spontaneity. Let your writing flow.
4. Write as if writing a letter to yourself or to a close friend or family member. Create a narrative account, write a story for yourself.
5. Write prose or poetry or a combination of both - you need not consider yourself a writer or a poet! Complete sentences are optional.
6. Draw pictures with words; incorporate drawings into your journal; incorporate photographs or press a leaf or a flower between pages of your journal.

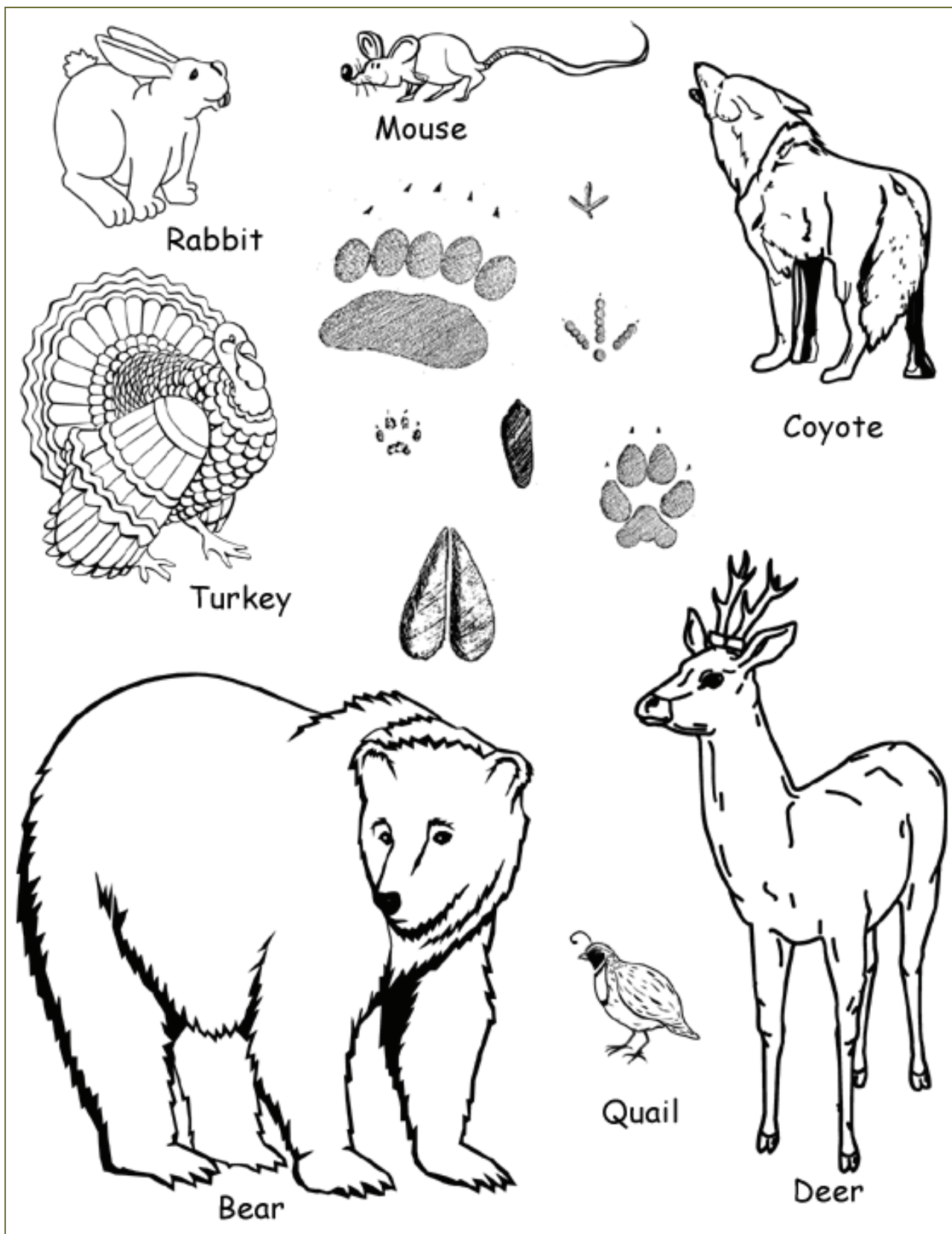






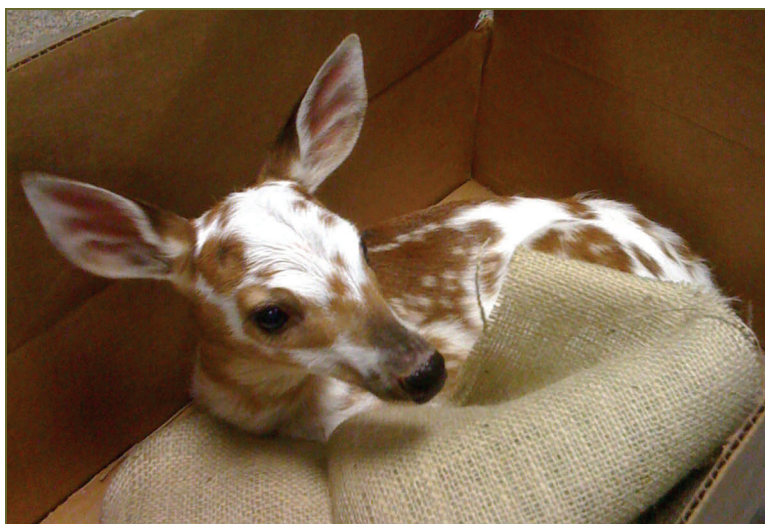
Print and Color!

## MATCHING GAME



## LAKE SHOTS

This is a fawn a visitor brought to the lake. We turned the baby in to a rehabilitator in Wilkes County who reports the fawn is doing well.



Trash collected during Rubbish Roundup earlier this year. Ranger Souther and Volunteer Jim Needum.







US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®  
Wilmington District

W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
499 Reservoir Road  
Wilkesboro, NC 28697

Tel: 336-921-3390  
Fax: 336-921-2330  
E-mail: jory.d.shepherd@usace.army.mil

## *Calendar of Events*

July 5—18	Tom Dooley Play—Fort Hamby Park
July 16	Rubbish Roundup 1:00 pm—Meet at Dam Site Ramp
Aug 6 & 20	Rubbish Roundup 1:00 pm—Meet at Dam Site Ramp
Aug 16	Music at Forests Edge Amphitheaters Coffee Pickers
Oct 10	National Public Lands Day; Call Ranger Chad Eller
TBA	Campground Programs Free to the Public. Call the Visitor Assistance Center for details.



### **Shoreline Watch Program**

- If you observe a violation of the Shoreline Management Plan; you can anonymously call or send a letter to the shoreline ranger at:  
**W. Kerr Scott Lake**  
**Attn: Shoreline Ranger**  
**499 Reservoir Road**  
**Wilkesboro, NC 28697**  
**336-921-3390.**
- You can leave a comment on our webpage at:  
<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wkscott/index.htm>
- If you suspect a water quality violation you can report it directly to:  
NC Department of Natural Resources (Water Quality Section)  
336-771-5000